श्री विश्वजीत सिंह पृथ्वीजीत सिंह : कुछ भी हो, लोकतंत्र की विजय है ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा० बापू कालदाते) : वी० पी० सिंह जी, यह बाहर लगाने के नारे हैं, यहां नहीं लगाइये (**व्यवधान**)

श्री विश्वजीत सिंह पृथ्वीजीत सिंह : मैंने नारा नहीं लगाया है, मैंने सत्य बोला है । (**व्यवधान**)

उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा० बापू कालेदाते) : यह सत्य भी बाहर जाकर बोल सकते हो (**व्यवधान**) मैं जानता हूं आप सत्य के बड़े प्रतिनिधि हैं, आप हमारे मित्र हैं । (**व्यवधान**)

श्री विठ्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव (महाराष्ट्र) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, सत्य को नारा मत कहिए, सत्य तो सत्य होता है (**व्यवधान**)

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Re: Closure of India's Diplomatic Mission in Fiji—(*Contd.*)

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to the Members for a unanimous expression of Indian solidarity to back the Fijian democratic movement. This is as it should be. This has been a part of our national heritage and a continuity of policy.

We are, of course, supporting the Indian migrants from here whose forefathers went to far off land to build a new nation and its solidarity. More than that we support the partie and people who do not practise thnic or colour discrimination. As is known the Fijian Labour Party and the National Federation Party had coalesced to form a Government under the able leadership of late Dr Bavadra. This regime was overthrown by the coups in 1987. The illegal regime's history is well known and I will not take your time in narrating it. Despite the coups and sad demise of Dr. Bavadra the alliance between the coalition partners continues. Under Mrs. Andi Kuini Bavadra's leadership, they are sustaining their struggle for democracy and to resist the authoritarian discriminatory rule.

Some Members raised the question whether we had any prior information about this. It is known that the illegal authorities in Fiji would demand that our Mission should be closed down. It could almost be guessed. The decision was not entirely unexpected in view of the belligerent stance which the so-called "Interim Government" and the Fiji Military Force had maintained towards our Mission. In June 1989, the Fiji Military Force recommended the Immediate expulsion of our Ambassador, and reduction in the status of the Embassy to that of a Consulate. Our information is that certain elements supporting the authorities had been pressing for some time for closure of our Mission.

To those hon. Members who have asked what retaliatory action we propose to take, I would answer that the most befitting response we can give to the illegal authorities in Fiji is to unswervingly maintain our policy of supporting the restoration of democracy and racial harmony in Fiji. We will not be deterred by any steps taken by the so-called "Interim Government" in Suva. As I had stated yesterday we shall continue to oppose racial discrimination wherever it is practised and in whatever form.

My attention was also drawn as to whether they have a Mission here or not and what we are doin

[Shri. I. K. Gujral]

I would like to inform the hon. Members that Fiji does not have any Resident Mission in India and therefore, the question of closure does not arise.

Some hon. Members had asked me about some similar precedents in the past, whether we had been asked to close Missions. Though this is not an exact parallel I might mention that Morocco broke diplomatic relations with us in 1985. These have since been restored. Earlier, as the hon. Members are aware, our Mission in Pakistan ceased to function in 1965 and again in 1971.

Interest has been expressed in the steps that the Government of India will take to highlight the racially discriminatory policies that the Interim Government of Fiji is attempting to institutionalise. The Government of India has been raising the issue through its official condemnation of the coups of May and September 1987 which ousted the democratically elected Government of Dr. Bavadra. We suspended trade and technical cooperation with Fiji since 1987.

The issue had been raised by India at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting at Vancouver in October 1987 and also at their meeting in Kaula Lumpur in October 1989. Since 1987, we have repeatedly taken up the issue of Fiji at the United Nations in successive meetings of the General Assembly. It has also been raised in the Non-Aligned forum. We shall take every opportunity to continue to raise the issue in appropirate international forums.

There have also been references to cooperation with other countries in working towards the restoration of democracy in Fiji. In this context, I would like to inform the House that the Government had discussed the issue with the representatives of many countries, including those of Australia and New Zealand, which are influential in this region ever since 1987. They share the view that the Constitution of Fiji. should be such as is acceptable to all its people. We will continue the process of bilateral consultation on the basis of support for the efforts of all Fijians who oppose an undemocratic and racially discriminatory system.

An hon. Member requested information on the recent attack on places of workshop in Lautoka. In October 1989, there wes incidents of arosn against four places of worship—a gurdwara, a mosque and two temples. Our then Ambassador to Fiji, Shri T. P. Sreenivasan, observed at a religious ceremony "whether it was an attack against religions or the Indianness of the people who practised these religions". The interim Government of Fiji construed his remarks to be a violation of normal diplomatic conduct and asked him to leave Fiji immediately. On 3-11-89, it also sought to downgrade our Mission to what it called "a de facto consular level". However, it had been earlier decided not to seek an agreement for appointment of a new Ambassador with the so-called 'interm Government' which we do not recognise. Therefore, we had announced the appointment of Shri V.B. Soni as our *Charge de Affaires* on 30th October, 1989.

As our colleague, Shri Rajmohan Gandhi, already told the House yesterday, the violation of human rights by the illegal Government of Fiji was taken up at the meeting of the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations in February, 1990, in Geneva by him as the representative of the Government of India.

Several Members have expressed concern as to which country will look after India's interests in Fiji. I would like to reiterate what I said in the Lok Sabha yesterday that we are already looking into this aspect and are in touch with some Governments. It would be premature to say anything more at present.

Members have enquired whether the Government has a policy towards overseas Indians. Yes. It is a continuity and the policy, all through the years, since Panditji's days, has been one of firm opposition to all those practices which discriminate on the basis of ethnicity or on the basis of colour. This is the basis of our policy which continues and we will uphold it at all costs.

I would like to inform the House that the Ministry of External Affairs has an officer at the level of Joint Secretary heading a division which deals with overseas Indians. A correct distinction has been drawn between the people of Indian origin who had made Fiji their home and Indian nationals who have been living and working in Fiji.

Some Members have repeatedly pointed out that immediately after the coups in 1987, many countries had strongly condemned the use of military force to overthrow the democratically elected Government of Dr. Bavadra. Since then, however, some of these countries have resumed relations with the so-called 'interim Government' and many continue to oppose efforts to institutionalise racial discrimination. During the recent visit of the Mauritius Prime Minister, our Prime Minister has said:

"There is another area, closer home, where recent developments have caused us much anxiety. In Fiji, we have a shared concern at the trampling of the national rights of the Fijian Indian community and discriminatory Constitution. It is our hope and expectation that all responsible segments of Fijian society will work for a genuine dialogue amongst themselves as the only way to ensure peace, stability and racial harmony in Fiji."

The leader of the National Federation Party in Fiji, Labour Party Coalition which won the last democratically conducted election in Fiji, Mrs. Adi Kuini Bavadra, the widow of late Dr. Bavadra, has made an important statement condemning the closure of the Indian Mission. She made these remarks on May 23 in Australia which she is presently visiting: "This explusion provides us all with clear evidence about the kind of administration Fiji has to contend with." Mrs. Bavadra drew attention to the fact :

"....that the Indian community in Fiji has been part of our country (Fiji) for over 100 years and their interests will continue to be looked after by the Coalition parties in our struggle to establish a free and multi-racial society where the actions of governments are controlled by the people through an elected and democratic parliament."

A number of social and cultural organisations in Fiji have jointly expressed grief and anger at the totally unwarranted action of the interim Government.

Some Members have referred to the actions of various other Governments and the policy of the Government of India on the Fijian question. I would like to say that India has never interfered in the internal affairs of any other country. It has not been and it is not now our intention to interfere in the internal affairs of Fiji. However, I will take this opportunity to again stress that the Government of India will continue to support the democratic movement in Fiji which opposes the policies of racial discrimination and is struggling for the restoration of democracy and racial harmony.

[Shri I. K. Gujral]

Thank you very much, Sir.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Need for the involvement of Youth in the battle against communalism, violence and corruption

SHRI RAJ MOHAN GANDHI (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, I am grateful for this chance given to me to make a Special Mention of the Conference of Youth Leaders which was held from the 18th to the 20th of this month. I made a request for a chance to speak on it on the 16th and I am grateful for the chance that I now have to make it. I merely wish to say that the need to involve the Youth of our country in the battle against communalism, in the battle against violence and in the battle against corruption is a very great need. And I thought that the attention of the whole House might be drawn, through you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, to the fact that the representatives of the Youth from all over the country met and looked at these issues and also at the enormous questions before them, of employment for the millions of the Youth as they leave the schools and the colleges or as they grow up without going to the schools and the colleges. I felt that this gathering was a very important one and it was useful and necessary to draw the attention of the whole House, through you, to it. Thank you, Sir.

Demand for appointment of a regular Vice-Chancellor in the Aligarh Muslim University

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE (West Bengal) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am thankful for the opportunity at least for raising rather a serious matter in the academic field. I have been trying to raise this issue for quite some time.

In the Aligarh Muslim University, a section of teachers resorted to hunger strike. Their main grievances were that there was no regular Vice-Chancellor in the Aligarh Muslim University to attend to the problems of the university and on the question of admission. A policy of drift is reported to have been followed by the acting Vice-Chancellor who is no position to take any firm decision—the teachers alleged. Their threat was that their next step would be boycotting of the students' examinations and that would be a more serious proposition. I would, therefore, request the Minister of Human Resource Development—and the Minister really is the Prime Minister—and other Ministers of State, I request all of them, to take particular care in the matter. The name of the Prime Minister cropped up in the matter of appointment of a regular Vice-Chancellor. It has been said in the newspaper reports that because of the pressures and counter-pressures at the Prime Minister's level, the thing is being delayed. If that is so, that would be very unfortunate. I hope that it is so and a regular Vice-Chancellor would be appointed there and it would be seen that academic life there does not suffer. Thank you, Sir.

Plight of performers using Animals

श्री सैयद सिब्ते रजी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मान्यवर, मैं आप के जरिये एक महत्वपूर्ण विषय उठाना चाहता हूं कि वाइल्ड लाइफ वैलफेयर के नाम पर यह सरकार आज उन बेचारे पेशावर बाजीगरों जोकि जानवरों के जरिये खेल-तमाशा दिखाते हैं, उनको किस तरह परेशान कर रही है।

मान्यवर, अभी हाल ही में, आप जानते होंगे, मुन्ना भालू को पकड़ लिया गया। उसको पकड़ कर जू की सींखचों में बन्द कर दिया गया। हमारी पर्यावरण मंत्री जो हैं, वह इस जिद पर अड़ी हुई हैं कि नहीं, जितने भी इस प्रकार के बाजीगर हैं, कलांदर हैं, सड़कों पर तमाशा दिखाने वाले हैं, उन्हें इस प्रकार का काम नहीं करना पड़ेगा कि वह जानवरों को पाल सकें। अब बड़े आदमी, जो करोड़पति, लखपति हैं, जिनमें पर्यावरण राज्यमंत्री भी शामिल हैं,